

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the pending claims based on evidence of prior invention as described below. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following information.

The Rejections Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,571,236 Are Inapplicable

Each of the pending claims is rejected based upon the '236 Patent as allegedly either anticipated or obvious. The '236 Patent has a filing date of January 10, 2000. As the enclosed Declaration establishes, the inventions claimed herein were developed as early as April 28, 1998 and diligently reduced to practice on or after June 20, 2000. Accordingly, none of the rejections based on the '236 Patent are applicable.

CONCLUSION


Since the cited references, taken either singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the combinations set forth in the pending claims, and further fail to provide any motivation or suggestion of the desirability of modifying the structures or methods to arrive at the claimed combinations, Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejections, allow the pending claims and pass the application to issue.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 or §1.117 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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